

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 IO-10 AID-05 /058 W
----- 005859

P 200250Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3863

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

COMUSSAG NKP THAI PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

COMIPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

S E C R E T SAIGON 3150

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON AND USDAO SAIGON FROM
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG ON 19 MAR 75. REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO.
QUOTE.

S E C R E T NHA TRANG 1090

DAO FOR AOSOP/OR/IX/IS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: CURRENT SITUATION IN THE KHANH DUONG (D) - DARLAC (P)
BATTLEFIELD

1. FRIENDLY SITUATION IN KHANH DUONG (D), KHANH HOA (P) IS AS
FOLLOWS:

23RD DIV HQS CO-LOCATED WITH KHANH DUONG (D) HQS, KHANH DUONG (D)

HQS 922 RF GROUP VIC BQ 682917
ONE (01) U/I ARTY PLT/216TH ARTY BN
227TH RF HQS CO

2/246TH RF BN (PLUS) VIC BQ 660937

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U/I PLT/37TH ARTY BN (CORPS ARTY) VIC BQ 634015

HQS 246TH RF BN VIC BQ 622033
1/246TH RF BN (PLUS)

3RD ABN BDE (PRT AS 93RD ABN BDE) IS TO BE DEPLOYED ALONG QL-21
FROM A POINT EXTENDING FROM VIC BQ 6003 TO BQ 7387 TO SECURE HIGH
GROUND AND QL-21 TO NINH HOA (D)

1/40TH REGT APPROX 07 KMS N/W. OF KHANH DUONG (D) HQS
3/40TH REGT N/S OF QL-21
MAJ BINH, KHANH DUONG (D) CHIEF, STATES THAT ARYT IN THE KHANH
DUONG (D) AREA TOTALS PLUS / - EIGHTEEN (18) TUBES (02X155MM,
16X105MM) WITH SUFFICIENT AMMUNITION TO CONDUCT FIRE MISSIONS IN THE
EVENT OF ENEMY OFFENSIVE ACTION FOR A PERIOD OF BETWEEN 36 TO
48 HOURS.

2. ALTHOUGH THE 25TH NVA REGT AND ONE (01) U/I BN OF THE
B-3 FRONT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE AREA, THE PROBABILITY EXISTS
THAT OTHER COMMUNIST UNITS ARE IN PLACE OR ARE CLOSING TO REINFORCE.
NONE HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED, HOWEVER. SENIOR G.S. OFFICERS REPORTED
THAT AT APPROX 191300H MAR, NUMEROUS TANKS (NFI) WERE SIGHTED IN
PLACE APPROX 07 KMS OF BRIDGE 62 (POSSIBLE KM 62) AT VIC BQ
320173. IN ADDITION, COL QUANG, CO 45TH REGT, 23RD DIV, ESTIMATED
60 - 100 TANKS (NFI) ON QL-21 (FROM VIC BQ 320173) EXTENDING WEST-
WARD ALONG THE HIGHWAY. (NOTE: AN UNIDENTIFIED REFUGEE QUESTIONED
BY THE RLO REPORTED NUMEROUS TANKS ON/OR ADJACENT TO QL-21, WEST
OF KHANH DUONG (D).

3. IN A CONVERSATION DURING WHICH THE CURRENT SITUATION WAS DISCUSSED
MAJ CAM, G-3, COL LONG, DEP FOR SECURITY, COL QUANG, 45TH REFT CO,
AND OTHER FIELD GRADE STAFF OFFICERS STATED THAT THE 44TH, 45TH,
AND 53RD ARVN REGTS ARE CONSIDERED COMBAT INEFFECTIVE AT THIS TIME.
THIS IS BECAUSE THE REGTS ARE, IN EFFECT, ESCAPING THE DARLAC (P)
BATTLEFIELD AND ARE GENERALLY MOVING EAST WITHOUT EFFECTIVE LEADER-
SHIP AND IN SMALL GROUPS. AN UNIDENTIFIED SOURCE REPORTED BY RADIO
TO THE 23RD DIV HQS THAT THE HQS 53RD AND THE 3/53RD REGT TOTALS NO
MORE THAN 150 - 200 MEN. ALSO OVERHEARD BY THE RLO, WAS A TRANS-
MISSION FROM THE 21ST RANGER GROUP DURING WHICH IT WAS REPORTED
THAT THE GROUP TOTALED ONLY PLUS / - 240 MEN. THE STRENGTHS OF THE
REMAINING REGTS (44TH & 45TH) OF THE 23RD DIV WERE NOT REPORTED.

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ACCORDING TO 23RD DIV SOURCES, SPECIALIZED COMPANIES (I.E. SIGNAL,
TRANSPORTATION, ENG, ETC) ARE CONSIDERED LOST ("WIPE OUT" WAS THE
TERM USED BY 23RD STAFF OFFICERS). HQS STAFF, 23RD DIV, NOW
TOTALS APPROX ONE (01) MAN PER SECTION (G-1 THRU G-6) EXCEPT FOR
THE G-2 & G-3 WHICH HAVE A COMBINED TOTAL OF FIVE (05) STAFF OFFICER.
THE STAFF HAS NO ILLUSIONS OF BEING ABLE TO REPULSE AN ENEMY ATTACK
DUE TO THE LACK OF TROOPS, ARMOR, AND COMMUNICATIONS. STAFF OFFICERS
DO NOT HOWEVER, BELIEVE AN ENEMY ATTACK IS IMMINENT FOR 24

TO 36 HOURS. ALSO ACCORDING TO 23RD DIV STAFF OFFICERS, THE ENEMY ENTERTAINS THE INITIATIVE.

4. THIS OFFICE ANTICIPATES ADDITIONAL REPORTING ON THIS SUBJECT.
SIGNED SPEAR. UNQUOTE.
LEHMANN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, COMBAT OPERATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON03150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750096-0811
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750332/aaaabcq.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CURRENT SITUATION IN THE KHANH DUONG (D) - DARLAC (P) BATTLEFIELD
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006